

## **ABSTRACT**

Method and arrangement for providing a powertrain (1, 3, 9) for motor vehicles that includes an internal combustion engine (1) and a stagegeared gearbox (9), which has a direct gear and an indirect gear with intermeshing toothed gears (12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23,). A control element (45, 48) is configured, in response to an input signal indicating that a direct gear is engaged, to be capable of controlling and/or regulating the engine (1) so that the engine can deliver a higher maximum permitted torque than when the direct gear is not engaged. The increase in the maximum permitted torque is allowed when the efficiency of the powertrain (1, 3, 9) with direct gear engaged and increased engine torque is superior to the efficiency of the powertrain (1, 3, 9) when any of the indirect gears (12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23,) having a lower maximum permitted engine output torque are engaged.